

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                                     |   |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| In re Application of:               | ) |                                   |
|                                     | ) | Art Unit: <b>Not Yet Assigned</b> |
| <b>Carlson, et al.</b>              | ) |                                   |
|                                     | ) | Examiner: <b>Not Yet Assigned</b> |
| Serial No.: <b>Not Yet Assigned</b> | ) |                                   |
|                                     | ) |                                   |
| Filed: <b>Herewith</b>              | ) |                                   |
|                                     | ) |                                   |
| For: <b>Distributed Network</b>     | ) |                                   |
| <b>Management System</b>            | ) |                                   |
| <b>and Method</b>                   | ) |                                   |

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examining the present application, please enter the following amendment and consider the appended remarks.

**AMENDMENT**

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 12 of this paper.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an Express Mail envelope No. EV 015617562 US addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 1, 2004.



Lesley L. Andrew